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Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Report of the Secretary-General**

I. Mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

1. Convinced that the establishment of a voluntary trust fund would constitute a significant development for the future promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous populations, the General Assembly, by resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, decided to establish the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund"). The purpose of the Fund is to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by providing them with financial assistance, funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

2. By resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995, the Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people and, by resolutions 53/130 of 9 December 1998 and 54/150 of 17 December 1999, extended it to the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system.

* A/55/150.
** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 18 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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II. Administration

3. The Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations on general trust funds by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the advice of the Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").

4. The Board is composed of five persons with relevant experience in issues affecting indigenous populations, who serve in their personal capacity. The members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, for a three-year renewable term. At least one member is a representative of a widely recognized organization of indigenous people. The current five members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2002 are themselves indigenous experts: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Chairperson, Philippines), Michael Dodson (Australia), Naomi N. Kipuri (Kenya), José Carlos Morales (Costa Rica) and Tove Sovndahl Petersen (Greenland/Denmark).

5. The most recent biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund, indicating the activities undertaken with the resources of the Fund and showing income and expenditure as well as the pledges and payments made to the Fund, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (A/53/282). The present report updates the information contained in that report.

6. The secretariat of the Fund and Board, located at the Trust Funds Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva, comprises the Secretary of the Fund and one Professional and one General Service staff member who are paid from programme support costs.

7. The Board meets with the donors to the Fund at its annual sessions. The secretariat also provides information to the donors at an informal consultative meeting organized before the end of each fiscal year. It also meets with donors, upon request.

III. Applications for grants

8. The General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Secretary-General, based upon the recommendations of the Board, have adopted the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries (see annex I to the present report).

9. Applications for grants should be sent by applicants and received by the secretariat of the Fund and Board no later than 1 November each year. They are then analysed, summarized and presented to the Board at its annual sessions, held in April.

IV. Contributions

10. In order to meet requests for funding during a current year, contributions to the Fund should be paid by the end of March in order to be available and duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer before the first day of the annual session of the

Board. Contributions made after that month are carried over to the following session of the Board.

V. Twelfth session of the Board

11. The twelfth session of the Board was held at Geneva, from 12 to 14 April 1999. On 22 April, the High Commissioner for Human Rights approved, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the recommendations of the Board at that session (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/6).

A. New contributions received before the twelfth session

12. The following contributions were received in time for the allocation of travel grants at the twelfth session of the Board:[1]

	Amount (United States dollars)	*Payment received at*	*Date received*
A. State			
Canada	10 110	Geneva	01.05.1998
Colombia	850	New York	30.11.1998
	250	New York	29.01.1999
Cyprus	1 000	Geneva	12.05.1998
Estonia	3 000	Geneva	21.09.1998
Finland	38 480	Geneva	03.06.1998
	38 093	Geneva	23.03.1999
Greece	6 300	Geneva	14.04.1998
	6 000	New York	28.04.1998
Japan	14 500	New York	29.01.1999
Netherlands	36 968	Geneva	10.06.1998
Norway	51 125	Geneva	23.12.1998
Sweden	63 291	Geneva	25.09.1998
B. Non-governmental organizations			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	11 678	Geneva	26.06.1998
Total	**281 645**		

13. There was an outstanding pledge of US$ 40,000 by Denmark at the time of the twelfth session of the Board.

B. Applications for grants

14. The Board of Trustees considered 220 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva,

26-30 July 1999) and 20 applications to participate in the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people (Geneva 18-29 October 1999).

15. The Board noted with satisfaction the substantial increase in the number of admissible applications received in 1999, as reflected in the following table:

Working Group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Working Group on Indigenous Populations	47	72 (+53%)	220 (+206%)
Working Group on a draft declaration	5	3 (-40%)	20 (+567%)
Total	**52**	**75 (+44%)**	**240 (+220%)**

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

16. Having examined the applications for grants in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended approval of: (a) 62 grants, for an amount of US$ 192,640, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous People;[2] and (b) 14 grants, for an amount of US$ 56,000, for indigenous representatives to attend the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.[3] In addition, the Board recommended approval of 14 grants, for an amount of US$ 57,800, for representatives to participate in the first session of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum for indigenous people (Geneva, 15-19 February 1999), thus fulfilling the new mandate of the Fund and Board established by the General Assembly in resolution 53/130. The beneficiaries were: Saoudata Aboubacrine (Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires tin Hinan, Burkina Faso), Faustino Alba Rodriguez (Asociación Napguana/Congreso General de la Cultura Kuna, Panama), Nadir Bekirov (Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People, Ukraine), Minnie Degawan (Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines), Aucan Huilcaman (Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Chile), Antonio Jacanamijoy (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica, Colombia), Samson Ole Mootian (Maa Development Association, Kenya), Bineet Mundu (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Chotanagpur Adivasi Seva Samiti, India), Narad Mani Rai Kirati (Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Service Centre, Nepal), Rodrigo de la Cruz (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, Ecuador), Glenn Shaw (Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, Australia), Jocelyn Roger Therese (Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane, France), Michael Todishew (Association of the Shoria People, Russian Federation) and Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca (Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana, Peru). According to the application forms received, all of the representatives are indigenous persons and each participated in the Working Group as the representative of an authorized organization.

17. The members of the Board who were at Geneva in October 1999 met for inter-sessional consultations to consider applications received for travel grants to

participate in the second session of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum (Geneva, 14-23 February 2000). The Board recommended approval of 34 travel grants, for a total amount of US$ 149,380 (for the list of beneficiaries, see annex II to the present report). These recommendations were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 5 November 1999.

18. A total of US$ 306,440 was approved for disbursement in 1999.

19. As part of the annual reporting cycle, the Board held a meeting with representatives of interested donor Governments, at which they expressed their gratitude for the donors' generous contributions and recommended, if possible, their sustained effort. The Board also informed them of its activities.

D. Implementation

20. The travel grants were paid on time to ensure the participation of the beneficiaries at the sessions of the three working groups.

VI. Thirteenth session of the Board

21. The thirteenth session of the Board was held at Geneva from 10 to 12 April 2000 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. All the recommendations adopted by the Board at that session were approved by the High Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on 13 April 2000.

A. New contributions received before the thirteenth session

22. The following new contributions were received in time for the allocation of travel grants at the thirteenth session of the Board:[1]

	Amount (United States dollars)	*Payment received at*	*Date received*
A. State			
Canada	10 194	Geneva	29.06.1999
Cyprus	2 009	Geneva	15.03.2000
Denmark	40 000	Geneva	24.06.1999
	40 000	Geneva	11.04.2000
Estonia	9 596	Geneva	10.01.2000
Finland	34 062	Geneva	23.03.2000
Greece	6 300	Geneva	15.04.1999
Holy See	1 000	Geneva	31.12.1999
Japan	13 000	New York	29.02.2000
Norway	49 862	Geneva	30.12.1999
Switzerland	8 750	Geneva	26.01.2000
	13 125	Geneva	26.01.2000

	Amount (United States dollars)	Payment received at	Date received
B. Contributions by non-governmental organization and individuals			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)	13 060	Geneva	20.07.1999
Shimin Gaikou Centre	1 500	Geneva	14.04.1999
	1 500	Geneva	17.03.2000
Daniel Prémont	120	Geneva	27.03.2000
Total	**244 078**		

23. The following pledges were registered as at 30 June 2000:

State	Amount (United States dollars)	Pledged at	Date pledged
Bolivia	1 000	New York	2-3.11.1999
Chile	5 000	New York	2-3.11.1999
Netherlands	31 425	Geneva	16.05.2000
Switzerland	24 096	Geneva	17.03.2000
Total	**61 521**		

B. Applications for grants

24. The Board considered 119 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, to be held at Geneva from 24 to 30 July 2000, and 36 applications requesting financial assistance to participate in the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration, scheduled to be held at Geneva from 16 to 27 October 2000.

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

25. Having examined the applications for grants in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended approval of: (a) 66 grants, for an amount of US$ 163,000, to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; and (b) 27 grants, for an amount of US$ 102,200, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group on a draft declaration (for the lists of beneficiaries, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4).

26. A total of US$ 265,200 was therefore approved for disbursement in 2000.

27. The Board also recommended that sufficient funds (amounting to a minimum of US$ 100,000) be allocated for grants to allow indigenous representatives to attend a possible meeting on a permanent forum in 2001, pending the adoption of a

resolution by the General Assembly which could further extend the mandate of the Fund. It was agreed that priority should in this case be given to beneficiaries who had participated in the first and second sessions of the ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum in 1999 and 2000 and that all applicants should comply with the criteria previously recommended by the Board.

28. The Board noted with satisfaction that, given the amount of new contributions paid by donors and the new applications received from indigenous organizations and communities, it had been able to recommend in 2000 an increased number of grants. It also noted the increase in the number of grants approved since the beginning of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (see annexes III and IV to the present report).

29. The Board met for one hour with interested donors to thank them and inform them of the activities of the Fund and the Board.

D. Implementation

30. At the date of preparation of the present report, all of the travel grants to attend the Working Group on Indigenous Populations had been processed.

VII. Fund-raising

31. In view of the increasing demand for financial assistance and the additional mandates entrusted to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/150, encouraged Governments to support the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People by, inter alia, contributing, together with other donors, to the Fund.

32. Also, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2000/56 of 25 April 2000,[4] appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to consider contributing to the Fund.

33. Further, the Subcommission on the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights had also recommended, in its resolution 1999/19 of 26 August 1999,[5] that the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Coordinator for the Decade, consider holding a special fund-raising meeting to encourage financial contributions to the Fund.[5]

34. The Board members followed up a proposal made by the High Commissioner as Coordinator of the Decade to assist them in their fund-raising efforts and recommended that the High Commissioner send a letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions, to be paid by the end of the year, to allow the Board to increase further the number of grants and the representation of indigenous communities and organizations in 2000. The High Commissioner therefore sent a letter on 1 October 1999 appealing for new contributions and agreed to do the same in 2000.

35. At the invitation of the Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, addressed the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session and appealed for new and regular contributions. The Chairperson estimated that an amount of US$ 600,000 would be necessary to cover the expenditure foreseen for 2001.

Notes

[1] According to official receipt vouchers available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[2] For the list of beneficiaries, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/6, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex III.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] E/CN.4/2000/2, chap. II, sect. A.

Annex I

Criteria for the selection of beneficiaries

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/131, the only beneficiaries of assistance from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations shall be representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities:

(a) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the Fund;

(b) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups without the assistance provided by the Fund;

(c) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Groups of the problems affecting indigenous populations and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

2. As regards applications to participate in the deliberations of the working groups of the Commission on Human Rights in accordance with resolution 1995/32 of the Commission on Human Rights,[a] organizations must in addition hold consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or be authorized by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to attend the working groups of the Commission.

3. In addition, the Board has developed the following practice and guidelines which have been approved by the Secretary-General:

(a) The representatives applying for grants should be indigenous and the organizations nominating them should also be indigenous organizations;

(b) The Board selects both representatives who have never participated in a session of a working group and representatives who have already participated and could develop a specialized capacity and strengthen the core group of participants in a working group;

(c) The Board considers a maximum of two applicants per organization;

(d) The Board does not consider applicants who do not provide a letter of support signed by an executive official or body of their indigenous organization (self-supporting letters will not be considered) or an applicant who is not an indigenous person;

(e) Applicants are requested to duly complete, sign and date their application forms and to attach a letter of recommendation from their organization. The applications and attachments must be submitted in the working languages of the Board's secretariat (English, French or Spanish). Applications received in other official working languages of United Nations organs (Arabic, Chinese or Russian) will be returned to the applicants with the request that a translation in English, French or Spanish be resubmitted to the secretariat. Applications and letters of recommendation in languages other then English, French or Spanish will not be considered by the Board;

(f) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider gender balance and, if possible, to nominate one woman and one man;

(g) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider nominating young persons;

(h) The Board encourages the former beneficiaries of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to apply for grants to represent their indigenous organization or community at sessions of the working groups by sending duly completed application forms and meeting all the criteria for selection;

(i) Applicants are requested to indicate their responsibility in their organization or community;

(j) Applicants applying to participate in the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations have been requested to refer in their statements to the specific theme of the year, "Indigenous children and youth".

Notes

[a] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda and addendum (E/1995/23 and Corr.1-2 and Add.7), chap. II, sect. A.

Annex II

List of beneficiaries approved to attend the second session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people (Geneva, 14-23 February 2000)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Africa			
Saudata Aboubacrine (F)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP-Tamanynut)/ Association des femmes réfugiées de l'Azawadau Burkina Faso (AFRAB)	Tuareg	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
Ole Kaunga Johnson M. N. (M)	Organisation for Survival of Illaikipiak Indigenous Maasai Group Initiatives (OSILIGI)	Larkipis, Maasai	Nanyuki (Kenya)
Koros Ole Salau (M)	Maa Development Organization	Maasai	Narok (Kenya)
Ole Mootian Samson (M)	Maa Development Organization	Maasai	Narok (Kenya)
Hassan Id Balkassm (M)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP)	Amazigh (Berber)	Rabat (Morocco)
Latifa El Mousoui (F)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP)	Amazigh (Berber)	Rabat (Morocco)
Americas			
Benjamin Huarachi Flores (M)	Federación de Ayllus del Sur de Oruro	Population of 34,760 inhabitants, in various provinces of the department of Oruro: Cabrera, Pagador, Poopó	Oruro (Bolivia)
Manuel Alberto Santander Solis (M)	Confederación Regional de Comunidades Mapuche	Mapuche	Temuco (Chile)
Aucan Huilcamán (M)	Consejo de Todas las Tierras	Mapuche	Temuco (Chile)
Antonio Jacanamijoy (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora	400 indigenous villages in nine countries of	Bogota (Colombia)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
	de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	Amazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana (France), Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela	
Rodrigo de la Cruz (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	400 indigenous villages in nine countries of Amazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana (France), Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela	Quito (Ecuador)
Jocelyn Roger Therese (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane (FOAG)	Kali'nas, Palikurs, Arawaks, Wayanas, Wayapism Emérillons	Awala-Yalimapo (French Guyana-France)
Fortunato Turpo Choquehanca (M)	Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana (COJPITA)	Populations of Arequipa, Puno, Cusco, Apurimac, Madre de Dios etc.	Arequipa (Peru)
Estebancio Castro Diaz (M)	International Indian Treaty Council/Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna	Kuna, Yaquis, Mayas, Lakotas	Panama City (Panama)
Andres-Idal De Leon-Kantule (M)	Asociación Kunas Unidos po Napguana (Asociación Napguana)	Kuna	Panama City (Panama)
Faustino Alba (M)	Asociación Napguana	Kuna	Panama City (Panama)
Tony Black Feather (M)	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council (TSNTC)	Lakota	Albuquerque (United States of America)
Johnson Holy Rock (M)	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty	Lakota	Albuquerque (United States of America)

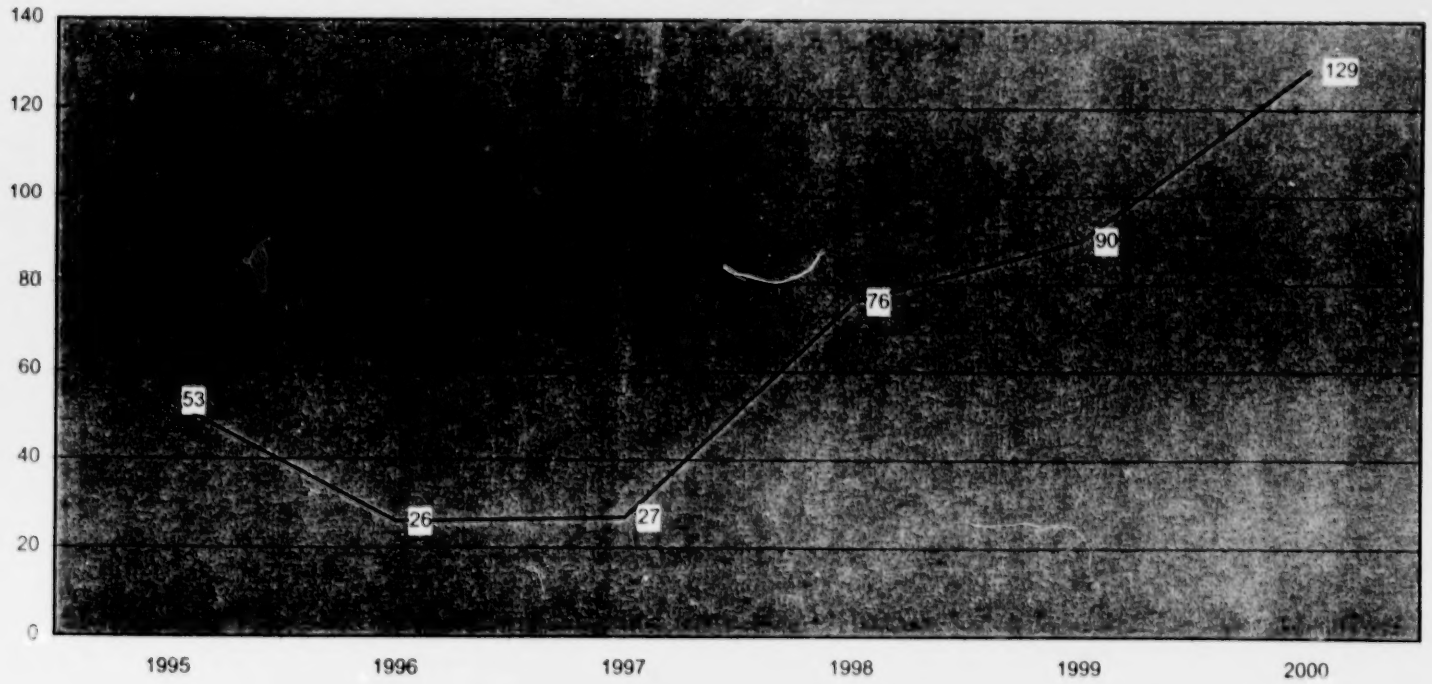
Name and gender of representative	*Organization/community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Asia			
Liton Bom (M)	Chin Human Rights Organization/International Peace Bureau	Chin	Bandarban (Bangladesh)
Munda Ram Dayal (M)	Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples	Adivasi	New Delhi (India)
Bineet Mundu (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Chottanagpur Adivasi Sewa Samiti (CASS)	Adivasi	New Delhi (India)
Rai Kirati Narad Mani (M)	Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Service Centre	Rai-Kirati, Limbu, Chepang, Tamang, Gurung, Magar	Kathmandu (Nepal)
Bae Trinidad T. Sibug (F)	Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP)	Luzon groups, Visayas group, Mindano group	Quezon City (Philippines)
Mansayagan Edtami (M)	Lumad Mindanaw Peoples Federation	Erumanen Manavu, B'laan, T'boli, Higaunon, Dulangan Manobo, Lambangian, Teduray, Matigsalug Manobo, Subanen, Mansaka, Mandaya, Agusan Manobo, K'lagan, Kaulu	Davao City (Philippines)
Minnie Degawan (F)	Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA)	Igorot people of Cordillera	Baguio City (Philippines)
Europe			
Krivochapkine A. (M)	Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North of Sakha Republic	Evenks, Evens, Yukaghirs, Dolgans, Chukchis	Moscow (Russian Federation)
Sergey Kirillin (M)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	30 indigenous tribes of the North, Siberia and Far East of Russian Federation (20,000 people)	Moscow (Russian Federation)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Sergey Haruchi (M)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	30 indigenous tribes of the North, Siberia and Far East of Russian Federation (20,000 people)	Moscow (Russian Federation)
Michael Todyshev (M)	Association of Shor People	Shors	Novokuznetsk, Kemerovo Region (Russian Federation)
Robbeck Vasily (M)	Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North of Sakha Republic/Institute of the Minority Peoples of the South	Evens, Evenks, Yukaghirs, Dolgans, Sakhas	Yakutsk (Russian Federation)
Nadir Bekirov (M)	Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People	Crimean Tatars, Karaims, Krymchaks	Simferopol (Ukraine)
Oceania			
Dennis Eggington (M)	Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Perth (Australia)
Tauni Ngatai Sinclair (M)	Te Kawau Maro	Maori	Auckland (New Zealand)
Moana Lynette Sinclair (F)	Te Kawau Maro	Maori	Auckland (New Zealand)

Note: According to their application forms all of the representatives are indigenous persons and were accredited by an authorized organization to participate in the Working Group.

Annex III

Number of grants approved, 1995-2000



Annex IV

Grants approved per Working Group, 1995-2000